

January 2014



Inside this issue:

*Highlight of the Month* 1

*From the President* 2

*E-Publication / EJ-USA* 3

*In Brief* 4

*E-Docs Alert* 5

*Events for the Month* 7

*Contact US* 8

## *Highlights of the Month*

- *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday*  
*January 20*

Americans on each third Monday of January honor the life and achievements of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., (1929–1968), the 1964 Nobel Peace laureate and the individual most associated with the triumphs of the African-American civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s.

As political organizer, supremely skilled orator and advocate of nonviolent protest, King was pivotal in persuading his fellow Americans to end the legal segregation that prevailed throughout the South and parts of other regions, and in sparking support for the

civil rights legislation that established the legal framework for racial equality in the United States.

[Obama on 50th Anniversary of March on Washington](#)

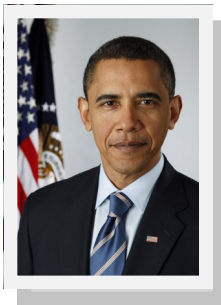
- *State of the Union Address*  
*January 28*

The State of the Union address illustrates several key components of how U.S. democracy works. This package focuses on political entities within American democracy, how they relate to the State of the Union speech and the separation of powers in

the government. It also discusses why leaders must engage constituencies and be transparent.

[Download Pamphlet](#)





December 31, 2013

#### A PROCLAMATION

Over a century and a half after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, millions remain in bondage -- children forced to take part in armed conflict or sold to brothels by their destitute families, men and women who toil for little or no pay, who are threatened and beaten if they try to escape. Slavery tears at our social fabric, fuels violence and organized crime, and debases our common humanity. During National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we renew our commitment to ending this scourge in all its forms.

Because modern-day slavery is a global tragedy, combating it requires international action. The United States is shining a spotlight on the dark corners where it persists, placing sanctions on some

### *From the President Proclamation on Slavery, Human Trafficking Prevention Month*

of the worst abusers, giving countries incentives to meet their responsibilities, and partnering with groups that help trafficking victims escape from their abusers' grip. We are working with other nations as they step up their own efforts, and we are seeing more countries pass anti-human trafficking laws and improve enforcement.

At home, we are leading by example. My Administration is cracking down on traffickers, charging a record number of perpetrators. We are deploying new technology in the fight against human trafficking, developing the Federal Government's first-ever strategic action plan to strengthen victim services, and strengthening protections against human trafficking in Federal contracts. During the past year, the White House has hosted events on combating human trafficking, bringing together leaders from every sector of society. Together, we came up with new ideas to fight trafficking at

the national and grassroots levels.

As we work to dismantle trafficking networks and help survivors rebuild their lives, we must also address the underlying forces that push so many into bondage. We must develop economies that create legitimate jobs, build a global sense of justice that says no child should ever be exploited, and empower our daughters and sons with the same chances to pursue their dreams. This month, I call on every nation, every community, and every individual to fight human trafficking wherever it exists. Let us declare as one that slavery has no place in our world, and let us finally restore to all people the most basic rights of freedom, dignity, and justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby pro-

claim January 2014 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, culminating in the annual celebration of National Freedom Day on February 1. I call upon businesses, national and community organizations, faith-based groups, families, and all Americans to recognize the vital role we can play in ending all forms of slavery and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

BARACK OBAMA

## *E-Publication: New Year's Day: A Time for Renewal*

New Year's Day in the United States is a time for fresh beginnings: hope for a better future and resolutions to improve one's behavior.

Observed January 1, New Year's celebrations actually begin the night of December 31 with

parties, concerts, fireworks and special events of all kinds. The day is marked in many American towns and cities with parades and U.S.-style football games.

[Read more](#)



## *EJ|USA: President-Speak. What the State of the Union Says to You*

January 2014 - Each year, in his State of the Union address, the president makes a case for his policies. The speech says a lot about democracy too.

Here's expert advice on understanding business contacts across the globe. Plus, scientists get goofy, skateboarders rule and America turns over a new leaf...

[Read more](#)



## *In Brief: NASA's Deep Space Network Celebrates 50 Years*



The Deep Space Network first existed as just a few small antennas as part of the Deep Space Instrumentation Facility. That facility, operated by the U.S. Army in the 1950s, morphed into the Deep Space Network on December 24, 1963, and quickly became the de facto network for missions into deep space.

During its first year of operation, the network communicated with three spacecraft: Mariner 2, IMP-A and Atlas Centaur 2. Today, it communicates with 33 via three antenna complexes in Goldstone, California; near Madrid, Spain;

and near Canberra, Australia (shown above in 1997). Located about 120 degrees apart around Earth, the complexes provides round-the-clock coverage of the solar system.

During the past 50 years, antennas of the Deep Space Network have communicated with most of the missions that have gone to the moon and far into deep space. The highlights include relaying the moment when astronaut Neil Armstrong stepped onto the surface of the moon in a “giant leap for mankind”;

transmitting data from numerous encounters with the outer planets of the solar system; communicating images taken by rovers exploring Mars; and relaying the data confirming that NASA’s Voyager 1 spacecraft had entered interstellar space.

Space agencies in Europe, Japan and Russia have relied on the Deep Space Network when planning and communicating with their own missions over the decades. The Deep Space Network has been used recently by India’s first interplanetary probe, the Mars Orbiter Mission.



## *E-DOCS ALERT*

- **Social Media Update 2013. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Maeve Duggan and Aaron Smith. December 30, 2013.**

Some 73% of online adults now use a social networking site of some kind. Facebook is the dominant social networking platform in the number of users, but a striking number of users are now diversifying onto other platforms. Some 42% of online adults now use multiple social networking sites. In addition, Instagram users are nearly as likely as Facebook users to check in to the site on a daily basis. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

[http://pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2013/Social%20Networking%202013\\_PDF.pdf](http://pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2013/Social%20Networking%202013_PDF.pdf) [PDF format, 18 pages, 578.94 KB].

- **On Pay Gap, Millennial Women Near Parity - For Now. Pew Research Social & Demographic Trends. December 11, 2013.**

While the public sees greater workplace equality between men and women now than it did 20 to 30 years ago, most believe more change is needed. Among Millennial women, 75% say this country needs to continue making changes to achieve gender equality in the workplace, compared with 57% of Millennial men. Even so, relatively few young women (15%) say they have been discriminated against at work because of their gender. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

[http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2013/12/gender-and-work\\_final.pdf](http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2013/12/gender-and-work_final.pdf) [PDF format, 81 pages, 663.93 KB].

- **East African Agriculture and Climate Change. International Food Policy Research Institute. December 2013.**

The report examines the food security threats facing 10 of the countries that make up east and central Africa - Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda - and explores how climate change will increase the efforts needed to achieve sustainable food security throughout the region. East Africa's populations is expected to grow at least through mid-century. The region will also see income growth. Both will put increased pressure on the natural resources needed to produce food, and climate change makes the challenges greater. East Africa is already experiencing rising temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, and increasing extreme events. Without attention to adaptation, the poor will suffer. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/east-african-agriculture-and-climate-change-0> [HTML format with links to chapters].

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/rr181.pdf> [PDF format, 434 pages, 278.43 MB].

- **Trafficking in Persons: U.S. Policy and Issues for Congress. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Alison Siskin and Liana Sun Wyler. December 7, 2012.**

Trafficking in persons (TIP) for the purposes of exploitation is believed to be one of the most prolific areas of international criminal activity and is of significant concern to the United States and the international community. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), some 20.9 million individuals today are estimated to be victims of forced labor and related TIP. As many as 17,500 people are believed to be trafficked into the United States each year, and some have estimated that 100,000 U.S. citizen children are victims of trafficking within the U.S. Through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA, Div. A of P.L. 106-386), and its reauthorizations (TVPRAs), Congress has aimed to eliminate human trafficking by creating grant programs for both victims and law enforcement, appropriating funds, creating new criminal laws, and conducting oversight on the effectiveness and implications of U.S. anti-TIP policy. Most recently, the TVPA was reauthorized through FY2011 in the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA of 2008, P.L. 110-457).

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL34317.pdf> [PDF format, 74 pages, 801.57 KB].

- **Worries About the World Economy for 2014. YaleGlobal. David Dapice. December 20, 2013.**

Uncertainty and uneasy interdependence characterize a 2014 forecast on global economic growth. High rates of unemployment persist in developed economies while emerging economies rely on those nations for exports and jobs for their own citizens. The International Monetary Fund forecasts 3.5 percent growth for 2014 - or less - and economist David Dapice analyzes factors that could hamper that growth: The US Federal Reserve is pulling back from monthly bond purchases pouring massive liquidity into global markets; congressional priorities remain skewed. Europe and Japan post low growth amid many policy challenges. China's growth is higher, but it must maintain jobs while reducing pollution. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/worries-about-world-economy-2014> [HTML format, various paging].

- **Leadership Matters: How Principals Promote Teaching Effectiveness. RAND Corporation. December 24, 2013.**

School principals play an important role in promoting teaching effectiveness by creating conditions that can support or hinder effective teaching. The growing emphasis on teacher evaluation suggests that changes are needed in the ways principals are trained, supported, and evaluated. [*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

[http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/corporate\\_pubs/CP600/CP693z6/RAND\\_CP693z6.pdf](http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/corporate_pubs/CP600/CP693z6/RAND_CP693z6.pdf) [PDF format, 1 pages, 0.1 MB].

## *Events for the Month*

- **Religious Freedom Day, Jan 16**

Each year, the President declares January 16th to be Religious Freedom Day, and calls upon Americans to "observe this day through appropriate events and activities in homes, schools, and places of worship." The day is the anniversary of the passage, in 1786, of the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom.

- **Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., Jan 20**

Americans on each third Monday of January honor the life and achievements of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., (1929–1968), the 1964 Nobel Peace laureate and the individual most associated with the triumphs of the African-American civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s.

All U.S. Government offices are closed.

- **Geneva II Conference on Syria, Jan 22**

This conference will bring the Syrian government and the opposition to the negotiating table for the first time since the start of the Syrian conflict, reports Xinhua.

- **International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, Jan 27**

In 2005, the U.N. General Assembly designated January 27 as an annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. The resolution was adopted by consensus on November 1, 2005. January 27 is currently officially recognized as a day of remembrance for Holocaust victims in several countries, including the United Kingdom, Italy

and Germany, because it marks the day when an advancing Soviet army liberated the largest Nazi death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, in Poland.

- **President Obama's State of the Union Address, Jan 28**

The State of the Union is an annual address presented before a joint session of Congress and held in the House of Representatives Chamber at the U.S. Capitol. The address not only reports on the condition of the nation, but also allows the president to outline his legislative agenda and national priorities to Congress.





## Contact US

*Embassy of the United States of America*

**Information Resource Center**

**Annick Joseph**

**IRC Technician**

*Phone: (230) 202 4444*

*Fax: (230) 212 2808*

*E-mail: [irc\\_portlouis@state.gov](mailto:irc_portlouis@state.gov)*

*[Embassy Website](#)*

*[Facebook](#)*